

## ABSTRACT

The invention proposes a method of filtering a bitstream according to user specifications. The proposed method uses a semantic description and a syntactical description of the bitstream. The semantic description is scanned to select the elementary units that match the user specification. The time is used as a linking mechanism between the semantic description and the syntactical description to locate the elements of the syntactical description that are to be removed. A filtered syntactical description is generated by removing the located elements. Finally, a filtered bitstream is generated from the filtered syntactical description.